

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR, UNWFC

SUBJECT: FAO/CCP 50TH SESSION: AGENDA ITEM IV (I)

REF: ROME 12524

ROME FOR FODAG

1. APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION WITH REGARD PROPOSED WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE CONTAINED REFTEL. IN PREPARING FOR CCP, WE HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER IN INTERAGENCY DISCUSSIONS AND HAVE CONCLUDED BEST NOT TO RAISE ISSUE OF COMBINING THE TWO COMMITTEES IN 50TH CCP. IF OTHER DELEGATIONS WISH TO RECOMMEND SUCH ACTION WE COULD SUPPORT THEM, AS APPROPRIATE.

2. IN ESSENCE, OUR POSITION ON CCP AGENDA ITEM IV (I) IS TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE COMMITTEE AS PRESENTLY

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ESTABLISHED BY SEEKING A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ASSERTING

ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AND PREROGATIVES IN COMMODITY ANALYSIS AND POLICY, ESPECIALLY INCLUDING CEREALS. ROLE OF CCP COMMODITY SUB-GROUPS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD. IN REACHING CONSENSUS ON DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN CCP AND PROPOSED WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE WE PREFER START FROM THE POINT THAT CCP IS EXISTING BODY IN THE FIELD AND PROPOSED NEW COMMITTEE CAN AND SHOULD ACCOMMODATE ITSELF TO THAT FACT. THUS, WE REJECT SUGGESTION IN PARA. 21 DOCUMENT CCP 75/19 THAT CCP SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO CURTAIL ITS FUNCTIONS TO AVOID OVERLAP WITH WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE. WE WILL SEEK ACTIVE SUPPORT THIS VIEW BY KEY ELEMENTS IN CCP, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN. GUIDANCE/TALKING POINTS BELOW, MAY BE USED BY FODAG IN ANY DISCUSSIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SESSION.

3. GUIDANCE/TALKING POINTS

--THE IMPLICATION IN DOCUMENT CCP 75/19 THAT THE KEY PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF ITS FUTURE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS IS TO AVOID JURISDICTIONAL CONFLICTS AND OVERLAP WITH THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE IS QUESTIONABLE SINCE THE CCP STARTED ITS REVIEW PRIOR TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE LAST YEAR.

--CCP IS THE ESTABLISHED FAO BODY FOR DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING CEREALS, AND ITS PAST ACTIVITIES GIVE THE COMMITTEE AMPLE EXPERIENCE ON FOOD MATTERS WELL AS RESERVES (SEE PARA. 13 OF CCP 75/19).

--GIVEN THE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF CCP AND ITS RELEVANT SUB-GROUPS IN BOTH COMMODITY ANALYSIS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO CEREALS, IT HAS A LEGITIMATE PRIOR CLAIM TO CERTAIN MATTERS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (PARA. 5, RESOLUTION 22) FOR THE PROPOSED NEW STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

--THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS SUCH AS REVIEWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING. KISSINGER

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